

Senate, March 25, 1998. The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. COLAPIETRO, 31st DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING WARRANTIES ON NEW EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 (NEW) (a) As used in this act:

2 (1) "Emergency vehicle" means any new motor
3 vehicle used as (A) fire fighting apparatus, (B)
4 an ambulance, or (C) a rescue vehicle, that is
5 purchased or leased by a department on or after
6 the effective date of this act;

7 (2) "Department" means any (A) agency of the
8 state, (B) municipality, (C) fire department of a
9 municipality, including a volunteer fire
10 department, or (D) volunteer ambulance company, as
11 the case may be;

12 (3) "Municipality" means any town, city,
13 borough, fire district or other political
14 subdivision of this state; and

15 (4) "Final stage equipment manufacturer"
16 means a manufacturer that assembles an emergency
17 vehicle from one or more components supplied by
18 other manufacturers.

19 (b) If an emergency vehicle or any fire
20 fighting or emergency equipment permanently
21 installed in an emergency vehicle does not conform
22 to all applicable express warranties and (1) such

23 emergency vehicle or equipment is subject to a
24 safety-related recall campaign to correct such
25 nonconformity, or (2) such nonconformity is or
26 arises from a manufacturer's defect and the
27 department reports such nonconformity to the final
28 stage equipment manufacturer of such emergency
29 vehicle, or its agent or authorized dealer, during
30 the period of two years following the date of
31 original delivery of such emergency vehicle to the
32 department, such final stage equipment
33 manufacturer, or its agent or authorized dealer,
34 shall make such repairs as are necessary to
35 conform such emergency vehicle or equipment to
36 such express warranties or shall reimburse the
37 department for the cost of such repairs,
38 notwithstanding the fact that such repairs are
39 made after the expiration of such two-year period.
40 (c) The Commissioner of Consumer Protection
41 may adopt regulations, in accordance with chapter
42 54 of the general statutes, to carry out the
43 provisions of this act.
44 (d) Nothing in this act shall in any way
45 limit the rights or remedies which are otherwise
46 available to a department under any other law.

47 GL COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 16 NAY 0 JFS

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 478

STATE IMPACT	See Explanation Below
MUNICIPAL IMPACT	See Explanation Below
STATE AGENCY(S)	Various State Agencies

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

STATE AND MUNICIPAL IMPACT: The bill requires the final stage manufacturer, or its authorized dealer, of a motor vehicle used as fire fighting apparatus, ambulance, or a rescue vehicle to make the repairs necessary to conform the vehicle to express warranties.

The owner of the vehicle must report the non-conformity to the final stage manufacturer or its authorized dealer.

There is a potential minimal workload increase for the Department of Consumer Protection which is required to adopt the appropriate regulations. This can be handled within anticipated budgetary resources.

Expanding warranties on new emergency vehicles would have an indeterminate fiscal impact on the State and municipalities. While the expanded warranties could save on future repair costs, they could also potentially result in higher purchase prices for new emergency vehicles and equipment.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

SSB 478

AN ACT CONCERNING WARRANTIES ON NEW EMERGENCY VEHICLES

SUMMARY: This bill requires the final stage manufacturer, or its authorized dealer, of a motor vehicle used as fire fighting apparatus, an ambulance, or a rescue vehicle to make the repairs necessary to conform the vehicle to express warranties if it:

1. is owned by a state agency, a municipality or other political subdivision, a municipal fire department including a volunteer fire department, a fire district, or a volunteer ambulance company; and
2. does not conform to all applicable express warranties and it or its equipment is subject to a safety-related recall or needs repair as a result of a manufacturer's defect.

Its owner must report the nonconformity to the final stage manufacturer, or its authorized dealer, within two years of taking delivery of the vehicle.

The bill requires the manufacturer to make the repairs even if the two-year reporting period has elapsed. A final stage manufacturer, instead of making the repairs, could reimburse the vehicle's owner for their cost. "Final stage manufacturer" means the manufacturer that assembles an emergency vehicle from one or more components supplied by other manufacturers.

The bill provides that it does not limit the right or remedies that are otherwise available to an owner under other law. It authorizes the consumer protection commissioner to adopt implementing regulations.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

File No. 129

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Yea 16

Nay 0